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## Text of President's Comments to Latin-American Ambassadors

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 11—

Following is the text of President Johnson's remarks at the White House today to ambassadors from Latin America.

I have just completed an informal review of Alliance for Progress problems with all the ambassadors and the distinguished head of C.I.A.P., Carlo Sanz de Santamaria. This kind of exchange strengthens our common aim and our combined ability to advance the Alliance. I learned much that will be helpful in the days ahead. I look forward to more such meetings.

On Nov. 18, President Kennedy spoke once again to the hemisphere. He quoted Robert Frost, saying "Nothing is true except as a man or men adhere to it—to live it, to spend themselves on it, to die for it." Within a week, his life, consecrated to our cause, had been tragically ended.

It is for us, the living, to insure that the hopes he raised are now regarded, that his passing marked not the death of a dream but a renewal of resolution.

To that purpose I said last November, "Let us make the Alliance for Progress his living memorial."

Today's agreements are part of our pledge. The United States will provide almost \$40 million — the countries of Latin America \$60 million — for projects in 14 countries.

### Purpose Are Diverse

They will help eliminate malaria in Brazil and train farmers in Bolivia. They will establish three rural electric cooperatives serving 10,000 homes and farms in the countryside of Colombia. This will bring credit and assistance to 21,000 small farms in the land reform and colonization areas of Peru. They will touch the lives and ease the struggles of 23 million people across the hemisphere.

These are only the latest steps in six months of extraordinary effort. Since December the United States has extended more than \$430 million dollars in assistance.

In that six-month period, we have, together, completed more than 52,000 homes and 7,000 classrooms. We have produced more than a million and a half schoolbooks and made more than 25,000 loans to farmers.

We have put into operation health programs to care for four million people, and Food for Peace programs to feed more than 10 million of our fellow Americans.

We have built more than 500 miles of roads — trained more than 10,000 teachers and 1,000 public administrators — established 200 credit unions. Three hundred water systems will benefit 10 million people.

### Pace Will Double

In the months to come, we intend to more than double the pace of this action. For this is the time for action.

And our help is only a small proportion of the resources for growth and the reforms for justice contributed by the countries of Latin America.

These are the tangible tokens of the constancy of our cause since the signing of the Charter of Punta del Este.

What we believed in then, we believe in now. What we agreed to then, we agree to now. What we sought then, we seek now.

This is as it must be. Our programs and policies are not founded on the shifting sands of momentary concern or the passing opinions of present officials. They are the inescapable issue of the events of our past and the hazards of our present. They are rooted in devotion to our democratic birthright and dedication to our spiritual beliefs.

They are, in short, the only objectives possible to men seeking to retain freedom and protect moral values while pursuing progress in a world on the march.

Real problems require realistic solutions. Helping to reshape an entire hemisphere requires practical priorities and concrete deeds. But no action, no judgment no statement will advance our Alliance unless it is guided by firm and resolute regard to principle. Those principles must not yield either to immediate expedient or to present danger.

### Renewal of Dedication

We renew today, as we do in the acts of every day, our dedication to the principles of development, of diversity, and of democracy.

Franklin Roosevelt, a man whom I served and loved, a man whose precepts I follow, said: "Through democratic processes we can strive to achieve for the Americas the highest possible living standards for all our people."

We will continue to pursue the goal until every campesino and every worker is freed from the crushing weight of poverty.

I have asked the Congress for the funds necessary to meet our obligations under the Alliance for Progress. I will fight for those funds with every resource of my Government.

Furthermore, in accordance with the unanimous vote of the Panama meeting of the Inter-American Bank, I intend to ask for \$250 million for this year to replenish the bank's funds for special operations. That bank, supported first by President Eisenhower has become a beacon of hope to the oppressed of our lands.

The principle of diversity stems from President Roosevelt's policy of the good neighbor. Within the loose and ample frame of the inter-American system, there is room for each nation to order its institutions and organize its economy, so long as it respects the rights of its neighbors.

In the councils of the Alliance we must guide each other toward the most rewarding course of progress. We do not confuse that duty and responsibility with any desire or right to impose those views on unwilling neighbors.

### Guided by Bolivar's Words

In devotion to democracy, we are guided by the command of Bolivar that "We must fearlessly lay the foundations of South American liberty: to hesitate is destruction."

Our charter charges each American country to seek and to strengthen representative democracy. Without that democracy, and the freedom it nourishes, material progress is an aimless enterprise; destroying the dignity of spirit it is meant to liberate. We will continue to join with you to encourage democracy until we build a hemisphere of free nations from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic Circle.

But the Charter of the Alliance is not confined to political democracy. It commands a peaceful, democratic social revolution across the hemisphere: It calls upon us to throw open the gates of opportunity to the landless and despised, the poor and the oppressed. It asks that unjust privilege be ended, and unfair power be curbed.

The United States signed that charter. We are fulfilling that commitment. We have begun an all-out war on poverty. For a just country cannot permit a class of forsaken in the midst of the fortunate.

We are also marching forward in our struggle to eliminate racial injustice, to permit every man, of every race and color and belief, to share fully in our national life.

In the same way we will join with those forces across the hemisphere who seek to advance their own democratic revolution. As we are finding in the United States, it is not easy to change the customs of centuries. Some seek to halt reform and change. Others seek to impose terror and tyranny. But Bolivar's wisdom is our warning—"To hesitate is destruction."

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#### Leadership Essential

I know my country's policies and my country's help are important to the Alliance for Progress. But in 1961 a new hemisphere began to be born. In that hemisphere, success or failure does not hinge on testing each shifting wind or each new word which comes from our neighbors. It depends on the courage and leadership we can bring to our own people in our own land.

The Alliance for Progress is a complex task. It has many

dimensions and many directions. But it rests on the hopes of people much like those I have seen in my recent trips through the poverty areas of the United States.

Across this hemisphere there are millions of despairing men and women. They come to birth, they toil, and they die, never knowing a day without hunger. They never feel the joy of rewarded achievement, or the pride that comes from providing for those you love.

They struggle for their self-respect—for their dignity as one of the children of God—against those who exploit them in a world which is closed to their hopes. Faces bent and backs bowed they see ahead of them only that same darkness in which they walk.

We worked for these men and women not because we have to. We work because morality commands it, justice requires it, and our own dignity as men depends on it. We work not because we fear the unjust wrath of our enemy, but because we fear the just wrath of God.

The path ahead is long and the way is hard. We must, in the words of the prophet, "mount up on the wings of eagles, run and not grow weary."

We have reached a turning point.

The foundations have been laid. The time calls for more action not more words. In the next year there will be twice as much action, twice as much accomplished, as in any previous year. I can now say with confidence that our Alliance for Progress will succeed. And the success of our effort — of your countries and mine — will indicate the vision of those who set us on this path.

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